

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 13, 2012

John Morton
Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street SW, Mail Stop 5003
Washington, DC 20536-5003

Dear Director Morton,

We are urging you to conduct a thorough case-by-case review of each individual detained at the Broward Transitional Center (the Center) in Pompano Beach, Florida. We are concerned by reports indicating that individuals who are, or should be, among the lowest immigration enforcement priorities have been detained at the Center for lengthy periods of time. We are further concerned by reports that some detainees at the Center have not received and are not receiving adequate treatment for serious medical conditions. These reports are counter to many of the reforms that you have begun to implement at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, including efforts to set sensible immigration enforcement priorities that focus on high priority targets and efforts to significantly improve conditions in our immigration detention facilities.

As you are aware, the Center is located in South Florida and is designated to house low-custody detainees who pose little to no security concerns. Many of the detainees at the Center do not have criminal backgrounds. Of those who have past convictions, we understand that their convictions are for offenses that pose no threat to national security or public safety, such as traffic violations. Additionally, many of these individuals have lived in the U.S. for a significant number of years, have U.S. citizen spouses or children, or are themselves victims of crimes, such as domestic violence, rape and human trafficking. Some of these individuals may, in fact, be eligible for U and T visas, Violence Against Women Act relief, as well as deferred action for childhood arrivals or other discretionary relief.

Moreover, we have received complaints that detainees at the Center are not receiving necessary treatment for serious medical conditions. Some of the reports coming out of the Center are horrifying. For example, we received a report from the National Immigrant Youth Alliance that one female detainee was returned to her cell on the same day she had emergency ovarian surgery and that she suffered bleeding and inadequate follow-up care. Another report from the Alliance indicated that a male detainee has been urinating blood for several days and has not received adequate medical attention. Situations such as these are shocking and should not be tolerated. Three years ago, you and Secretary Napolitano announced that reforming the delivery of necessary medical care to detained individuals would be a top priority of the Agency.

We applaud the efforts this Administration has taken to focus immigration enforcement and detention resources in a smart and effective manner. On August 18, 2011, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice began a prosecutorial discretion initiative that included a case-by-case review of all pending immigration cases to identify low priority cases. More recently, the Administration unveiled a process by which certain young individuals who arrived as children would be able to request deferred action.

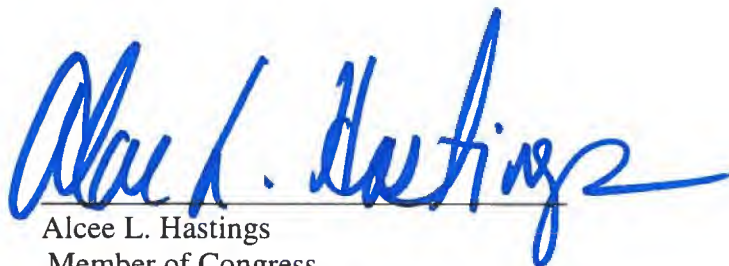
To ensure that these policies are faithfully carried out at the Center, we request that you begin a review on a case-by-case basis of each person detained at the Center to determine whether any such individuals warrant an exercise of prosecutorial discretion including, but not limited to, administrative closure of removal proceedings or grant of deferred action. We further request that you conduct a thorough investigation of the delivery of medical treatment at the Center. Any lapses in the delivery of medical treatment at the Center should be immediately resolved.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to a response. We also look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Sincerely,



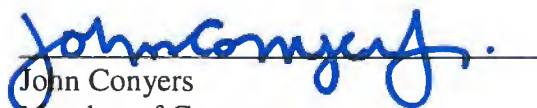
Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



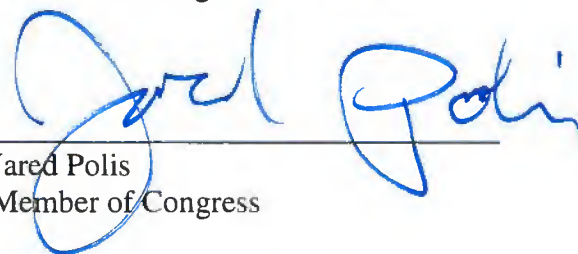
Mike Honda
Member of Congress



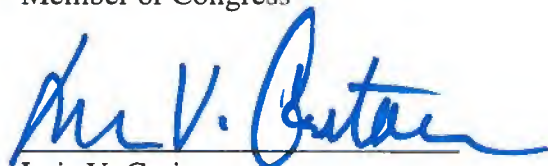
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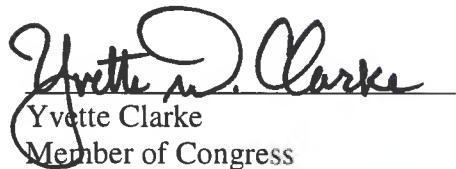
Frederica Wilson
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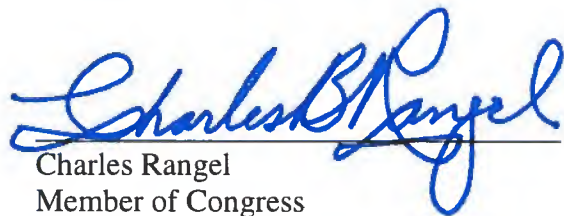
Earl Blumenauer
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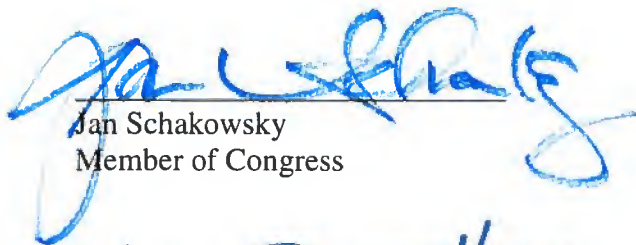
Hansen Clarke
Member of Congress



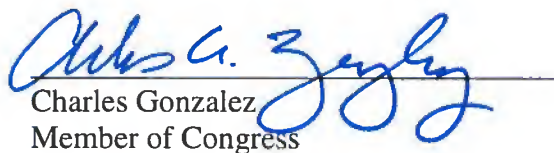
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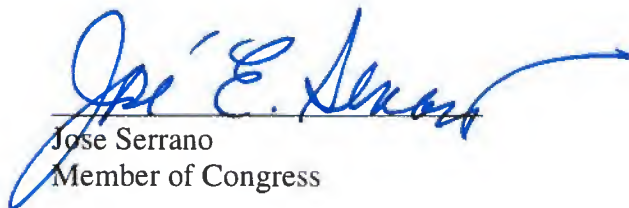
Charles Gonzalez
Member of Congress



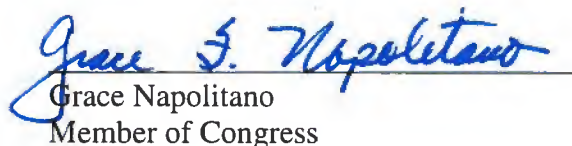
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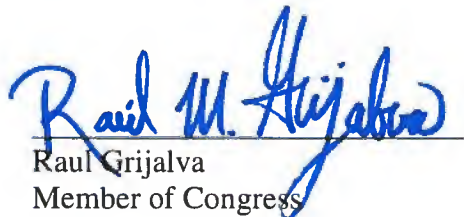
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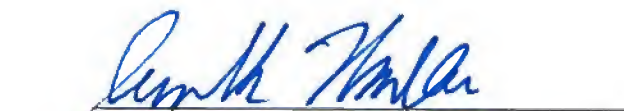
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